

Amendments of the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 5 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

A preventive treatment method for avoiding thromboembolic events (e.g., heart attacks, strokes, and other ischemic events) involves filtering out harmful emboli from the blood flowing out of atrial appendages. Co-pending and co-owned U.S. patent application No. 09/428,008, now U.S. Patent No. 6,551,303; U.S. patent application No. 09/614,091, now U.S. Patent No. 6,689,150; U.S. patent application No. 09/642,291, now U.S. Patent No. 6,652,555; U.S. patent application No. 09/697,628, now U.S. Patent No. 6,652,556; and U.S. patent application No. 09/932,512, now published as U.S. Application Publication No. 20020022860A1, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties herein, describe expandable filtering devices which may be implanted in an atrial appendage to filter the blood flow therefrom.

Please replace the previous version of the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 21 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The inner diameter of positioning tube 270 is sized to be sufficiently large to accept and allow passage of compacted implant device 210 attached to one end of a device shaft 280. Implant device 210 may, for example, be any one of the self-expanding or inflatable filtering devices disclosed U.S. patent application No. 09/428,008, now U.S. Patent No. 6,551,303; U.S. patent application No. 09/614,091, now U.S. Patent No. 6,689,150; U.S. patent application No. 09/642,291, now U.S. Patent No. 6,652,555; U.S. patent

application No. 09/697,628, now U.S. Patent No. 6,652,556; and U.S. patent application No. 09/932,512, now published as U.S. Application Publication No. 20020022860A1, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein. Device shaft 280 may be a conventional catheter shaft having conventional fixtures for device attachment. Device shaft 280 may, for example, have a solid or tubular structure made of solid metals, metal braids, solid polymers, polymer braids, or any suitable combination thereof. Shaft 280 may enclose other tubes or structures that may be required for device deployment. For example, device shaft 280 may include some lumen for supplying fluids for inflation of an expandable balloon in a balloon-inflatable type of device 210.